



# TE AWAMUTU COLLEGE

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## Homestay Information and Conditions

### General

Homestays are with New Zealand families and will normally be in a home where there are two parents. Students will be welcomed into the homestay family and invited to join in all family outings and activities. To make the experience as pleasurable as possible for all, some of the responsibility lies with the student, to put in the effort to adapt and be open to new experiences.

All Homestay situations are carefully inspected by the International Student Co-ordinator to ensure that not only is the home warm and inviting but also that the student will be given the best care possible.

### Homestays provide:

- A caring and supportive environment.
- Full board including breakfast, lunch and dinner.
- A fully furnished bedroom with study table and lamp.
- Linen and bedding
- Heater (used prudently)
- All laundry facilities (except dry cleaning).
- Accommodation for 45 weeks in a year. (Students may travel home during vacations but accommodation is contracted for the whole period).

### Students are expected to provide:

- Personal toiletries.
- Own snack food (extra to meals).
- Personal entertainment costs.
- Students are expected to pay their own telephone calls. Calls within Te Awamutu are free. Limit the length of a call to no more than 15 minutes. Calls within New Zealand and overseas should be paid for in the following ways: call 'collect' or make a 'price required' call through the operator or use a pre-paid phone card. The Homestay family must be paid immediately after a 'price required' call. You may prefer to buy your own mobile phone or pre-paid phone card for toll calls.

### Homestay Fees

Students pay NZ\$220 per week for their homestay. Payment of homestay fees are paid directly to the school and should be paid two terms in advance. The school has the responsibility for paying the homestay provider. If a student is staying at the Homestay during the holidays, the normal weekly payment applies. However, if a student is absent during a holiday break (inclusive of the summer break from December to January), a retainer fee of \$50 per week will be paid to ensure that a room is kept for him/her.

### Being Part of the Family

Students are not generally expected to help with home chores, except making their own bed and keeping their room tidy. *However, it is also important to understand that in New Zealand it is the custom for the family to help with setting the table, drying dishes, etc. Therefore, offers to help with these things would make you a part of the family.*

Most New Zealand families go to bed early and students should respect this by being quiet after the family has gone to bed.



## Discipline

As a member of the family, students have to live by the rules of the homestay. The following is a guide of the hours you may be expected to keep. This should be negotiated with your homestay family.

You would normally be expected to be home:

- Between 6.00pm and 7.00pm (Sunday – Thursday)
- By 11.00pm (Friday and Saturday)

Later hours may be kept during weekends or holidays with the permission of the homestay carers.

The homestay carer needs to know at all times where the student is going to be. If intending to stay away overnight the student is expected to give an address and contact phone number. Students under the age of 18 would be expected to get permission from their homestay carers to stay away overnight so that they can ensure the arrangement is suitable. Any nights spent away from the student's homestay beyond Te Awamutu and the Waikato region must be approved by the Deputy Principal in charge of International Students.

## Health

The homestay carer will help if the student needs medical care. Students are responsible for their own medical costs and will have proof of medical insurance arranged at the time of enrolment at Te Awamutu College.

## Pocket Money

Students should not carry large sums of money with them. Pocket money should only be carried to cover personal weekly expenses like snack food, toiletries, etc. The discretionary expense account set up for each international student eliminates the need for students to have large amounts of money on them. NZ\$40 per week is a reasonable amount for pocket money. It is important that International students have similar spending powers to avoid resentment amongst the other students. However, it is realised that students may need extra spending money during school holidays for sightseeing and other activities.

## Dealing with Problems

Often problems arise with homestay families because they don't understand how students feel about certain things. Students need to be able to share their feelings and if unsure of how or what to say, these can be discussed with the Deputy Principal in charge of International Students. Remember that most problems are caused by people not understanding each other.

Should a serious problem arise, after counselling both the student and the homestay family in an effort to fix the problem, the student may be placed in a new homestay situation with no extra placement fee being charged.

## Other Issues

**Work:** New Zealand Immigration regulations forbid holders of Student Visas to work for payment while in New Zealand.

**Smoking:** New Zealand, like most other countries, is becoming smoke free. It is illegal in New Zealand for cigarettes to be sold to anyone under the age of 16 year. Smoking is not permitted at school, or in your homestay.

**Drinking:** Drinking alcohol is not allowed in a homestay situation unless you are over the age of 18 and the family has approved it. It is illegal in New Zealand for anyone under the age of 18 years to be served alcohol or to be on licensed premises unless he/she is in the company of his/her parent or legal guardian.



# Homestay - Key points

## EXPECTATIONS

- You are part of a family, so you must learn to share and co-operate.
- Politeness is very important.
- You should eat with the family whenever you are at home.
- You may be expected to do some small jobs around the house.

## COMMUNICATION

- Communication is very important in a family.
- Always check to see if your plans fit those of your host family.
- Always tell your host family where you are going and the time you will be back.
- Leave a contact phone number if you are going to someone's place
- Take your mobile phone with you so that you can contact your family.

## TRANSPORT

- You can travel with your homestay family without further permission from the school.
- You cannot travel with any other person without permission from the Deputy Principal in charge of International Students.
- You must not travel in a car with anyone who does not have a full licence.
- We hope that homestays will give you a ride to town, but this is not part of the contract.

## TELEPHONES

- Do not use your homestay phone for toll calls without their permission.
- Overseas calls should normally be made by mobile phone or calling card.
- Remember that homestay phones are used by other people. Ask permission.

## STAYING OVERNIGHT

- You may stay overnight in Te Awamutu or in the Waikato region with a friend if you have permission from your homestay. You must supply a contact name, address and phone number.
- You cannot go to stay overnight outside of Te Awamutu or the Waikato region without the permission of the Deputy Principal in charge of International Students.
- No Te Awamutu College international student is allowed to stay unsupervised in a motel or hotel except in special situations (e.g. part of a school sanctioned trip).

## MONEY MATTERS

- You do need pocket money for personal expenses like toiletries, movies and snack food.
- Offer to pay something if there is extra cost involved.

## ALCOHOL AND SMOKING

- Anyone under the age of 18 is not allowed to purchase or consume alcohol. It is illegal for anyone under the age of 16 to be sold cigarettes.
- Smoking is not permitted at school or in your homestay.